

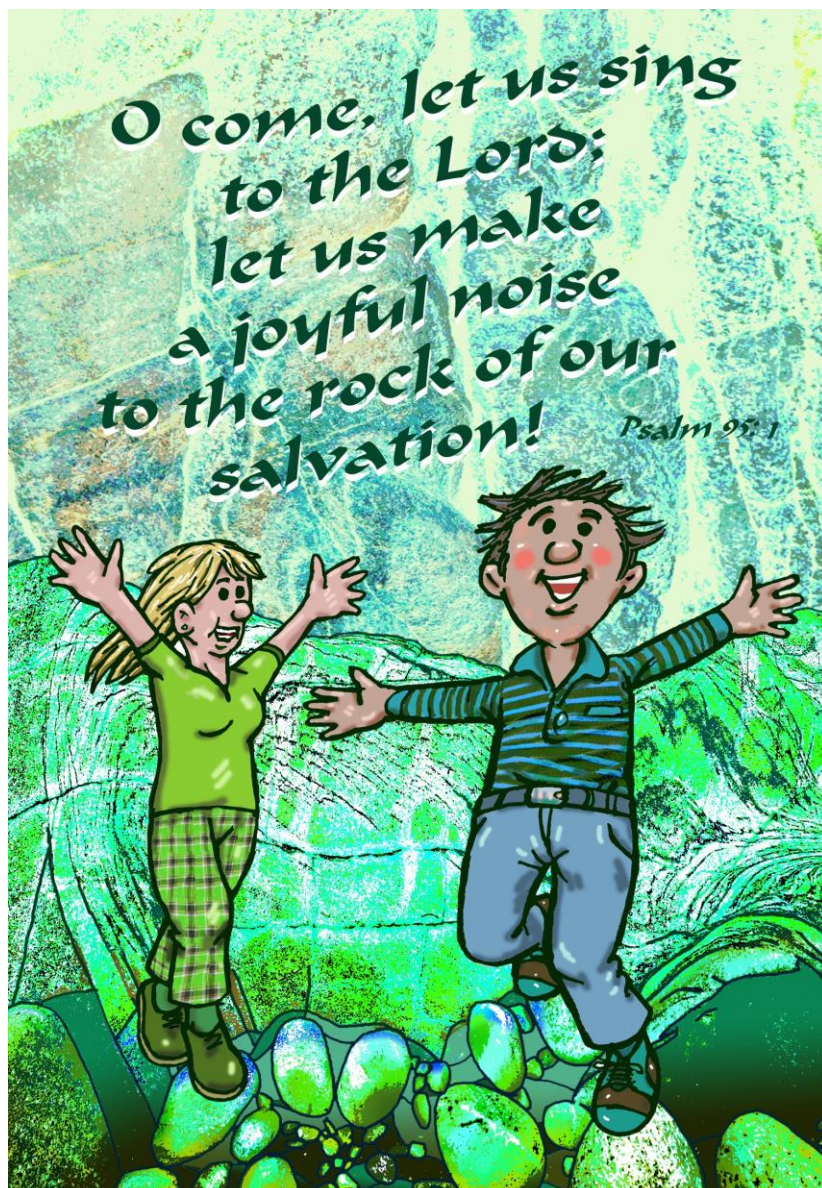


**Kempston East  
Methodist  
Church  
Newsletter  
Issue 209  
May 5<sup>th</sup>  
2024**

Minister:

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# The Truth of the Ascension

*‘While He was blessing them, Jesus left them and was taken up into heaven.’ (Luke 24:51).*

The Ascension is a hugely neglected festival, which deserves to have a bigger place in our church life. How do we understand it?

*The Ascension tells us that Jesus is in control: ‘Jesus has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand’ (1 Peter 3:22).* Jesus occupies the top spot in the universe; the control of our world is in the safe, scarred hands of Jesus. We can offer Him our worship and allegiance, knowing that His plans are better than those of any Prime Minister or President.

*The Ascension tells us that God is committed to His world: ‘And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus’ (Ephesians 2:6).* Jesus did not leave His humanity behind when He ascended, for we are raised with Christ to heaven. Therefore, God is bound to His world and we can trust Him to fulfil His purposes for our lives and world.

*The Ascension gives us a job to do: ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations’ (Matthew 28:18,19).* God’s way of working in the world is through us. He commissions us for this task at the Ascension and equips us at Pentecost. We are called to make disciples, starting in our workplace, family and community.

*‘Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which He blesses all the world.’ (Teresa of Avila).*



# News from the BB

The Boys' Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Kempston Company have had a fantastic 2023-24 session. With many an evening enjoyed by all ages between 5-18 years of age, the young people have seen many tasks and challenges presented in front of them. A couple of these events were our National competitions, in which each company can enter a side to compete against others. In the four main



competitions, the Company & Seniors section in particular, excelled. In the Chess, we reached the Semi-Finals of the England and Wales National competition, in the Five-a-side Football, they came sixth in England and Wales. There were two competitions that exceeded all expectations. We were triumphant and reached the UK National Finals, in the Table Tennis and the FIFA gaming. With our Table Tennis side travelling to BB Headquarters for England in Hemel Hempstead, they valiantly came sixth in the United Kingdom, overcoming hundreds of companies across the four nations. The FIFA team, rose to the challenge and travelled to BB Headquarters for Northern Ireland, Belfast to compete, winning every match in the qualification group stages throughout the rounds, ultimately finishing second to 5<sup>th</sup> Dundee in the Final. Having set off at 4am in the morning to travel and finishing their final match at 10:30pm, some 20 hours later, they did a tremendous job, and everyone can be proud of and celebrate their achievements. To be able to make the Finals and support them in their safe travels, it was estimated that a figure of around £1,200 would be the target to ensure the boys representing were fed, watered and able to safely commute to their venues. To raise the sufficient funds, there were several events, competitions, raffles, and lucky dips which were tremendously successful. We cannot thank highly enough everybody who supported those taking part and were kind and generous with their donations.

As part of the efforts, Kempston Climate Change came to the Family Quiz we hosted, having their own display to raise awareness and gain support. As part of their support, they produced lovely daffodil planters, Slates with the Boys' Brigade crest upon and a very smart wooden model of a Church (see the photo above and the real thing at the back of the church), with inside a table tennis table and a TV showing the FIFA game being played upon it. We thank Kempston Climate Change for their generosity.

1<sup>st</sup> Kempston has a rich history across its 65-years in making a mark and giving its members chances they may not gain elsewhere. We know the young people who took part have wonderful memories for life which can only benefit them in the formative years into adulthood. We are incredibly grateful for everyone's support across all our funding efforts, and this shows the good stories and positive experiences that happen and occur within Kempston and our community, and we absolutely hope that we can follow this up by getting to these events and Finals again.

*Alistair Marriott*

## Prayer for May 2024

Dear Lord,  
May, the loveliest of months – and this year, as we welcome the blossom and the beauty of late Spring, we also welcome Your Holy Spirit afresh, as we celebrate Pentecost.

May we open our hearts to receive Your Spirit, as Your people did on that first Day of Pentecost. May we be filled and empowered and emboldened to witness to Your goodness and love.

May we be transformed by Him and reflect Your transforming grace to the broken world in which we live. May people who meet us ask, “What does this mean?” May they turn to You and hear You speaking in ways they can understand.

Without Your Holy Spirit we can do nothing. With Him living in us, we can do all things.

Come Holy Spirit, come to us, we pray,  
In Jesus’ name. Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*

## Sound Off?



This special online event with interviews with members of Norwich Deaf Church will give a brief insight into church life and worship from the perspective of Deaf people and users of British Sign Language. It will help you to reflect in how your church might welcome members of the Deaf community.

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 7.00-8.00pm.  
All welcome.

For more details and to book: [Sound Off? The experience of Deaf / BSL users in the church Tickets, Wed, May 15, 2024 at 7:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

## Prayer for Schools Fortnight – 6<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May

Our local schools are busy places, and draw in many people, especially students, teachers, governors, parents, caterers, and school grounds support services. These people need our prayer, as they face many daily challenges. And so, four years ago, the Prayer for Schools Fortnight was launched. It now exists to promote prayer for schools in partnership with prayer groups, churches and Christian organisations. The vision is to see all 30,000 schools in the UK being regularly prayed for.

The theme this year is Running the Race, based on Hebrews 12, and highlighting the perseverance and team mentality needed for schools to operate successfully.

More details at: <https://www.eauk.org/church/pray-with-us/pray-for-schools.cfm>

# General Church Meeting

This year's General Church Meeting will take place on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May. Rev Michael Giles will chair the meeting.

As has been our normal pattern the order of things will be: Sunday morning worship (at 10.30am) led by Rev Michael Giles and including Holy Communion, followed by a faith lunch in the New School Hall, with the General Church Meeting starting when we're all ready (probably at about 1.30pm). This is the meeting when we elect the stewards and Church representatives.

This year we have vacancies for three new stewards as Julie and Mary step down, plus the vacancy we are already carrying. We also have two vacancies for Church representatives on Church Council: these are people who represent the congregation's views in Church Council's discussions. Do please consider whether you feel able to offer yourself for either of these two important roles in the church. See also the note below from Rev Michael Giles.

Although not officially appointed at the meeting, we are always keen to have new pastoral visitors, more people who can join our technical teams (sound, PowerPoint, livestreaming) and who can boost the musical side of the worship. Could you help here?

Ann S will be co-ordinating the faith lunch so would you please bring some food to be shared among us and bring it to the New School Hall before the service begins.

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## Serving God at Kempston East Methodist Church as Church Steward

In May we have one person offering to be a steward and another praying about the role. The team from the May Annual Church Meeting will be at least four stewards; ideally we need six.

The duties (on a rota basis) include various activities in preparation for the Sunday service (welcoming the preacher and congregation) and afterwards (counting and banking the offering), as well as assisting the minister with Communion. There are also four Church Councils and bi-monthly Steward Meetings, usually on Zoom. Also, each steward is a representative on one committee covering the life of the church - pastoral, finance, property and family. The role is flexible to work around work and family needs.

**Former stewards are welcome to offer a year or longer, please let us know.**

**Interested, please contact:**

Rev Michael Giles T: 01234- 930882 [michaelgiles2017@gmail.com](mailto:michaelgiles2017@gmail.com) or

Senior Steward: Julie Constant

email: [julieconstant@btinternet.com](mailto:julieconstant@btinternet.com)



# Our Church Family



Please remember in your prayers:

- Rosemary H
- Bimla and Anwar
- Valerie
- Margaret
- Margaret T (in Anjulita Court)
- Paul C (in Rivermede)

## This Week at Kempston East

Tuesday May 7 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Tibbs Dementia meets in the New School Hall
Wednesday May 8 <sup>th</sup>	11.30am-1.30pm	Open House in the Beginners Room
	<b>3.00pm</b>	Guild meets in the New School Hall for their AGM
Thursday May 9 <sup>th</sup>	12.30pm	Lunch Club meets in the New School Hall
Friday May 10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Parents and Toddlers meet in the Halls
	7.00pm	Boys Brigade Display in the Church
Saturday May 11 <sup>th</sup>	4.30pm	Soup Kitchen in the Old School Hall
Sunday May 12 <sup>th</sup>	1.30pm (approx.)	Church AGM (see page 5 for details)

## Wesley Guild

The Wesley Guild meeting next week on May 8<sup>th</sup> will be our Annual General Meeting, followed by tea etc. This meeting will start at 3pm rather than the normal 2.30pm so that we're not eating tea too early!!

This is also a reminder to Guild members to please bring food that can be shared.



# WORSHIP AT EAST

Our 10.30am Sunday morning service this week will be led by Chris Fox in a welcome return to our pulpit.

Our normal live-streaming will also be in action. Details of how to connect into this will be given in Richard's covering email. There will, as usual, be a video recording available on the website and audio CDs for those who normally receive these.

## Future Services at Kempston East

Sunday May 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Rev Michael Giles (Holy Communion) followed by a Faith Lunch and the Church AGM
Sunday May 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am 6.00pm	Claire Peck (Sunday Club Anniversary) 'Pentecost Praise' led by Rev Michael Giles and Keith Lilley
Sunday May 26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Helen Boshier



**SPRING FAYRE**

**SAT 18th MAY**

**10am - 2pm at Kempston East**

Raising money for Christian Aid

BOUNCY CASTLE, CAKES, PLANTS,

WHITE ELEPHANT, STOCKS, PENALTY SHOOT OUT!

and much much more.

 **KEMPSTON EAST METHODIST CHURCH** 

## Cake Stall

At the Christian Aid Fair on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May we will have the usual cake stall and I would be pleased to have donations of cakes, pies, jams, chutneys etc for this.

Please wrap them securely and label them with the ingredients (we need to do this for those who may have allergic reactions)

Thank you

Ann S





**Coffee Morning  
and  
SALE  
for**

**ZIMBABWE**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 10 am to noon**

Priory Methodist Church, Newnham Ave, Bedford, MK41 8JT

*Buy things from Zimbabwe –*

Big African Drum. Demonstration Marimba. Hawshaws. Small drums. Beautiful material. Tea Cloths, Decorated Clay Bowls. Wall Plate. Stone Animals. T Shirts. Wooden Bowl, Carvings & Spoons, Carry Cane. Leaflets + more

*Entry, Tea/Coffee/Cakes – Free : Donations Please*

ZVSF workers are all volunteers, who take relief food long distances, to desperately hungry villagers and to over 1,000 children in five schools. They have set up a self-help garden project for food. Vast numbers are suffering and sick but there are no medicines. Rapid inflation increases poverty. Oppressive Government fixes elections. Effective protestors disappear!



**ZIMBABWE VICTIMS'  
SUPPORT FUND**

Registered Charity Number 1145569



**PENTECOST  
PRAISE**

**SUN 19th MAY  
6pm**

**A service of celebration and praise  
Including testimony, informal prayer,  
songs, hymns and music**

**Followed by refreshments**

**Music by the Willingtones**

**Come holy spirit come**

**KEMPSTON EAST METHODIST CHURCH**



**North Bedfordshire  
Circuit**  
The Methodist Church  
34/1

**Circuit Magazine**

The Summer issue of the Circuit Magazine (with pale blue covers) is available today at the back of the church. It contains much interesting and informative material, so please do pick up a copy to read. They're free!

If you prefer to read it online, it can be found as an attachment with Richard's email, or on the Circuit website: [northbedsmethodist.org.uk](http://northbedsmethodist.org.uk) and click on What's On.

**Magazine**

Issue No.52 Summer 2024

All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all.



Singing the Faith 330

Circuit information... see inside for further details.  
Sunday 19th May Pentecost Praise at Kempston East  
Sunday 14th July Farewell Service for Rev Lorna Valentine  
Sunday 1st September Welcome Service for Rev Paulette Tedd  
For diary dates, see page 34

If you have any prayer requests, thanks and, indeed, any other items and news that you would like to go into the weekly newsletter then please email these to Geoff Talbot ([geofftal1@outlook.com](mailto:geofftal1@outlook.com)) as soon as possible and ideally by the previous Wednesday.

If you know of someone who would like to receive this emailed newsletter could you please send their email address to [richard.ward4@btinternet.com](mailto:richard.ward4@btinternet.com). Equally, if you would like to be removed from the distribution list, please let Richard Ward know.